

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 00633 211600Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /045 W
-----102418 211606Z /20

O 211523Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4256
INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS ATHENS 0633

FOR S/PRS AND PA
DEPT PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI AND WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL
USIA FOR IBS GREEK LANGUAGE SERVICE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R)
SUBJ: SECVISIT: WELCOMING AND ARRIVAL STATEMENTS

FOLLOWING ARE TEXTS OF STATEMENTS MADE BY GREEK FONMIN PAPALIGOURAS
AND SECSTATE VANCE UPON ARRIVAL AT ATHENS AIRPORT, JANUARY 21, 1978:
BEGIN TEXT: MR. PAPALIGOURAS: QUOTE I AM VERY HAPPY ON BEHALF OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF GREECE TO WELCOME AS OUR GUESTS MR. AND MRS. VANCE AS
WELL
AS THE DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF MY AMERICAN COLLEAGUE'S STAFF. I AM
SURE THAT OUR TALKS WILL BE FRUITFUL AND PRODUCTIVE FOR BOTH OUR
COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE VERY CLOSE, MORAL, FRIENDLY AND EMOTIONAL TIES.
THERE IS NO NEED FOR ME TO STRESS THE PERSONALITY OF MR. VANCE.
I BELIEVE IN HIS PRUDENCE, MODRATION, AND OBJECTIVITY. AND, BECAUSE
OF THIS, I BELIEVE THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE TALKS WILL BE GOOD -
SATISFACTORY FOR BOTH PARTIES. (UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION).
MR. VANCE: MR. FOREIGN MINISTER, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR
YOUR EXTREMELY KIND WORDS. LET ME SAY HOW HAPPY I AM TO BE BACK IN
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ATHENS AGAIN. I APPRECIATE VERY MUCH THE EXTREMELY KIND INVITATION OF
YOURSELF AND YOUR GOVERNMENT TO VISIT WITH YOU AND HAVE A CHANCE
TO DISCUSS WITH YOU, THE PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR
GOVERNMENT MANY MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND CONCERN.
I BRING TO YOUR PRESIDENT, THE PRIME MINISTER AND TO THE PEOPLE
OF GREECE THE WARM REGARDS AND BEST WISHES OF OUR PRESIDENT,
PRESIDENT CARTER.

MR. PAPALIGOURAS: THANK YOU VERY MUCH MR. SECRETARY (IN ENGLISH).

SEC. VANCE: IN CLOSING I WOULD LIKE TO STRESS A POINT WHICH THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS ALREADY MADE, AND THAT IS THE LONG LASTING FRIENDSHIP AND THE CLOSENESS OF THE RELATIONS WHICH OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE HAD FOR MANY MANY YEARS.

AND I THEREFORE APPRECIATE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COME AND MEET WITH THE LEADERS OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO RENEW AND STRENGTHEN OUR TIES AND FRIENDSHIP.

MR. PAPALIGOURAS: WE ARE GOING TO STRENGTHEN THEM (IN ENGLISH).

SECRETARY: VANCE: THANK VERY MUCH. UNQUOTE. END TEXT.

MILLS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ATHENS00633
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780032-1295
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780137/aaaabffo.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 100f25e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3735498
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECVISIT: WELCOMING AND ARRIVAL STATEMENTS FOLLOWING ARE TEXTS OF STATEMENTS MADE BY GREEK FONMIN PAPALIGOURAS AND SECSTATE VANCE UPON ARRIVAL AT AT HENS AIRPORT
TAGS: OVIP, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/100f25e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014